



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF  
ADMINISTRATION  
AND RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**Subject:** The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program

**From:** Judy S. Davis, ~~Director~~  
Office of Acquisition Management

**To:** OAM Division Directors  
Regional Contracting Officers  
Purchase Card Holders

As part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is celebrating National JWOD Week from October 6 to 14, 2001. Since its inception in 1938, this unique federal procurement program has provided employment for thousands of individuals with severe disabilities, enabling them to lead more productive and independent lives. While providing work for people with severe disabilities, federal contracts placed under the JWOD Program provide government personnel with quality products and services at reasonable prices.

The Program is administered by an independent federal agency, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, in partnership with two national nonprofit organizations, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and National Industries for the Severely Handicapped (NISH). NIB and NISH assist over 600 community-based agencies across the nation in their efforts to employ people with severe disabilities on federal contracts under the Program.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Javits amendment to the Wagner-O'Day Act, which expanded the Program to serve people with a range of disabilities other than blindness and allowed federal agencies to contract for JWOD services in addition to products. The JWOD Program set a new goal to increase the number of jobs federal agencies generate from its current level of 36,000 jobs to 50,000 jobs.

I ask that each of you commit to greater utilization of the JWOD Program, thereby creating new positions for workers with severe disabilities. I encourage all EPA personnel to support the JWOD Program whenever possible. In particular, government Purchase Card users should always buy items furnished by the JWOD Program before considering other commercial sources.

Products available under the JWOD Program are mandatory source items, and include a wide range of office supplies, cleaning products, hardware items, medical/surgical products and textiles. These items are distributed through <http://www.jwod.com>, the GSA Advantage! online shopping service (<http://www.gsaadvantage.gov>), and authorized commercial distributors. For more information about JWOD supplies or distributors, visit the program's web site: <http://www.jwod.gov>.

The JWOD Program also performs a wide range of services such as administrative services, food service, grounds maintenance, janitorial/custodial, mailroom operation, switchboard operation and warehousing/distribution. The Program can be an effective vehicle for outsourcing service requirements.

If you would like additional information, including catalogs and videos, a JWOD briefing or to suggest new products or services you may wish to procure through JWOD, please contact the Agency Competition Advocate, who is also EPA's JWOD Liaison, Corinne M. Sisneros, at (202) 564-4321.